

REMARKS

Claims 7-8 were pending and under consideration, claims 1-6 having been cancelled, and claims 9-11 having been withdrawn from consideration.

In the Office Action of November 2, 2006, claim 7-8 were rejected as anticipated by *Honda et al.*, USP 5708543.

In response to the rejection, and without conceding the rejection in any way, claims 7 and 9 have been amended to clarify the direction of the length of the slide contact plane so that the end portions are clearly positioned relative to the gap and to clarify that the grooves at the end portions of the slide contact plane are in the slide contact plane. The claims clearly distinguish over the cited art. New claim 12 has been added to make clear that one or more head can be extracted from the bonded core halves resulting from the process of claim 7.

In relevant part, claim 7 recites (emphasis added):

said slide contact plane having a length extending in the general direction in which the gap extends and having end portions at opposite ends of said length of said slide contact plane, ...

forming a groove at each end portion of the slide contact plane; and

forming in the slide contact plane a groove at each end portion of the slide contact plane

The amendment makes clear that the resulting magnetic head has a non-magnetic portion formed at each outer end portion of the slide contact plane other than at the end faces of the core halves. These non-magnetic portions are in the slide contact plane. This means that the slide contact surface in part necessarily is comprised of the non-magnetic glass material. See items 8 in each of Figures 1 and 3-8.

This is clearly unlike *Honda et al.*, where the nonmagnetic portions 5 are next to the nonmagnetic gap g. The grooves 12 of *Honda et al.* are not formed anywhere near the outer end portions of the slide contact planes, but rather near the magnetic gap as is clearly shown by the cross cut lines a-e in *Honda et al.* Figure 7. The grooves 17 (Figure 7) or 8 (Figure 1) are formed below the level of the slide contact plane and thus the slide contact plane is never made

up in part of a non-magnetic glass material at its outer end portions. There simply is no disclosure of a head such as that claimed.

The Office Action relies on the reading of the Honda et al end faces as the end portions. However the clear definition of the sliding contact surface plane length in the claims renders this reading erroneous. Moreover, there clearly is no nonmagnetic material in the slide contact plane surface end portions as recited in the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Since claim 12 depends from claim 7, this claim should be allowed as well.

Rejoinder of claims 9-11

Since claims 9-11 are more narrowly drafted than claims 7-8, it is respectfully requested that these claims be rejoined and allowed as well. In that regard, claim 9 has been amended to follow the changes made to claim 7.

The application now being in condition for allowance, notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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